



THE



PROGRESSIVE



FARMER.

THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARAMOUNT TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY.

Vol. 1.

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No. 37.

OUR FARMERS' CLUBS.

What our Farmers are Doing and How the Work of Organizing is Progressing.

CEDAR GROVE CLUB.

The club met Saturday, 9th inst., with a full attendance of members. The subject chosen for discussion was the present road law, known as the Watson law, as compared with the old system. There was a full and free discussion, every member participating and expressing his views. At the conclusion of the discussion a vote was taken, which stood twelve for the old system, seven for the new, and two in favor of working the roads by taxation, alone. The club expressed a desire to hear from the other clubs in the county on this subject, with a view of ascertaining the sentiments of the farmers of the county upon it and suggest that it be considered at the next meeting.

A. W. BEVEL, Secretary.

MOUNTAIN CREEK FARMER'S CLUB.

BOSTICK'S MILLS, N. C., }
October 15, 1886, }

EDITOR PROGRESSIVE FARMER:—I thought perhaps a few lines about our Mountain Farmer's Club might be of interest. Since our dinner on the 19th of August, we have added nineteen to our membership.

At our last meeting the question of fertilizers for the coming year received some attention, as it was thought that the Club ought to use every means to buy at the cheapest and that only of what was absolutely necessary. The question for discussion at the next meeting of the Club is, "Which would be the best for farmers, to buy Guano or to buy the chemicals and compost?" The Club then discussed the desirability of building a house to be used as a store and also as a hall to hold the Club and other meetings. It was felt that the members were placed at some inconvenience by not having a house in which to meet, and with the prospect of a largely increased trade during the coming year, all agreed that the time had come to build a house for the Club.

Crops in this section are much shorter than was expected; both corn and cotton being cut short by the long dry spell after the wet spring. In spite of the short crops, the Club members are paying up, and no doubt all will pay for what they have bought through the Club. But had they been compelled to pay time prices, most of them could not have paid out.

We heartily agree with the PROGRESSIVE FARMER in the line it is taking, and trust that great results may be the outcome.

I am yours truly,
JOSEPH L. GALLOWAY,
Secretary.

We learn that a strong club has been formed at Jerusalem in Davie county. The PROGRESSIVE FARMER asks that all clubs report their proceedings through its columns, thus making it a convenient medium of communication between them, as thereby they may hear from each other every week.

A Farmers' club was organized at Jericho, in Davie county, on last Saturday. A report of the proceedings will appear in our paper as soon as received.

A farmers' club was organized at Greenville, Pitt county, Saturday, 9th inst.

A CATTLE DISEASE—INFORMATION WANTED.

EDITOR PROGRESSIVE FARMER:—The following epidemic has broken out among the cattle of the N. C. Insane Asylum, and any information that would throw light upon the probable causes would be gladly received. Since the 3d of October seven cases have occurred, in the

following order: One on the 3d, one on the 5th, two on the 7th, one on the 8th and two on the 11th. Symptoms are, slight fever, diminished appetite, stiffness and apparent pain in the affected limb, with a distinct crackling sound when walking, redness, heat and swelling of skin in interdigital space, formation of vesicles, suppuration, burrowing of pus in soft parts, and sloughing out of soft parts within the hoof-horn. The inflammation extends above the corona and in some cases to the back. Pus is at first thin, watery and tinged with blood; later, is yellowish and more purulent.

Feet affected have been as follows: Left hind foot in three cases, right fore-foot in two cases. Treatment has been thorough washing, disinfectants and free application of an astringent anodyne ointment. Two cases have recovered in five days; none have shed the hoof horn; none have died. Jno. W. THOMPSON, Steward.

HOW RAIN IS PRODUCED.

Did it ever occur to the reader that there is just as much water in the air above him on a clear bright day as on a cloudy or rainy one? Rain does not come from somewhere else, or if it is wafted over to you from elsewhere, the water that is over you is simply wafted on to some other place. What is said above explains this. Water is absorbed in the air above us at a certain temperature, and it becomes insensible. Cool that air by a wind draft of cooler atmosphere, or by electrical or chemical influences, and the moment the air becomes cooler it gives up some of the watery particles that were insensible or invisible to the higher temperature. These small particles thus given out unite and when enough of them coalesce, obstruct the light and show as clouds. When enough of them unite to be too heavy to float in the air they begin to descend; pair after pair of them come together until a rain drop is formed. One of these minute rain drops is made up of millions of infinitely small watery particles.

Air passing over the cold tops of mountains is cooled down so that it gives up a good deal of the concealed watery vapor, and hence little rain falls in the region along the ice side of the mountains. This is why so little rain falls in Colorado and in other places north and south of that State. The prevailing winds blow from the west, and the cool tops of the Rocky Mountains lower their temperature, and thus take out the moisture that would otherwise fall in rain.

HEAT OF THE GULF STREAM.

It is well understood that Great Britain and other parts of the north-western Europe owe much to the warming influence of the Gulf Stream. The extent of the effect has been given in the calculation of Dr. James Croll, who has found that the amount of heat conveyed northward in the Atlantic by this stream is equivalent to 77,479,650,000,000,000 foot pounds of energy per day, which is equal to all the heat received by 1,560,935 square miles at the equator, and more heat than is conveyed by all the air currents. The heat of the Arctic Seas and North Atlantic would be diminished that much by the stoppage or diversion of the great ocean river.

A STOCK REGION.

The territory of Alberta in the Canadian Northwest contains, it is computed, 76,325 cattle, 10,025 horses, and 21,300 sheep. Thus at \$40 per head, \$3,053,000 is invested in cattle; \$601,500 in horses at \$60 per head; and \$85,200 in sheep at \$4 per head. This is a very good beginning, considering it is only three or four years since the first attempt was made to establish ranches in the Territory.—Farm, Field and Stockman.

State Items.

—Mr. George Donald has presented us with a specimen of his second crop of red June apples. The tree is in bloom for a third crop, of which we were also presented with a fragrant blossom.—Greensboro North State.

—Cholera has played havoc with the hogs at the steam distillery of Phelps & Vogler, at Advance, Davie county. Eighty or more have died of the disease which was introduced by the purchase of a load of infected swine.—Union Republican.

—The rice crop of Mr. Shade Wooten, one of the "crack" farmers of Lenoir county, which he has just housed, is the topic of conversation in the La Grange section. His crop yielded sixteen hundred bushels, and the grain is said to be unusually fine.—Goldsboro Argus.

—No scheme or enterprise has ever succeeded in Salisbury like the Building and Loan association. A savings bank is now on foot. Bar-rooms are closing and the recently adopted plan of saving the pennies at the end of the week is working to the good of the entire community.—Salisbury Watchman.

—Mr. J. E. Ried, auctioneer at the Fayetteville Warehouse, took a trip to Mr. John Kirkpatrick's farm on Tuesday, and reports a splendid crop and fine tobacco land. Mr. Ried brought average samples of a large proportion of the crop which he said would bring \$50 a hundred.—Fayetteville Observer.

—The Charlotte Observer furnishes the latest snake stories, one of a little snake being captured and swung up in a web by a spider, the other of a five foot, eight inch bull snake, eleven inches in circumference, killed by a squirrel hunter. Wade Harris don't publish snake stories unless accompanied by properly attested affidavits.

—The Rowan clover seed has been on sale in Statesville this season. It is pronounced cleaner and better than the Kentucky seeds and sells for less money. Yet at \$5.00 per bushel, here are \$5,000 made by the Rowan farmers on even 1,000 bushels of their seed and the money is kept in North Carolina.—Statesville Landmark.

—The frost of last Sunday night a week ago was more damaging than we had chronicled in our last issue. While tobacco escaped unhurt on land favorably situated for resisting the formation of frost, it was in other places utterly ruined. Some farmers lost their entire crop, others have left part of their crop uncut.—Danbury Reporter.

—W. Duke, Sons & Co., can justly claim to be the largest manufacturers of cigarettes in the world. They are now making between one and a half and two millions cigarettes daily and are more than ten millions behind in their orders.—There is an immense amount of tobacco in the hands of the speculators which will soon change hands for there is considerable activity in the markets throughout the country. The frost and the extremely short crop will cause prices for the new crop to advance.—Durham Recorder.

—A number of the people in the country are raising rice this year and we understand they are highly pleased with the yield. Mr. H. M. Johnson, of Rome, has a fine crop. Mr. E. W. Pou planted three acres and the yield was 140 bushels. At 75 cents per bushel, this beats cotton.—The bottom seems to have dropped out of the cotton market. What poor farmers will do with low prices and a short crop seems hard to understand. People will some day be forced to stop raising so much cotton. Let the supply be cut off and the price will rise.—Smithfield Herald.

—The excursion to Washington netted the Baptist church at this place about \$900.—Greensboro Patriot.

—Joseph Yokely, of Davidson county, sheared 49 pounds of wool from 14 sheep. Considering the small cost of wintering sheep this shows that farmers could make good profit by keeping sheep of improved grade. Mr. Yokely has four of Marino stock, that yielded fifteen pounds of wool alone.—One farmer always selects his seed corn in the field. He saves nothing but nice firm ears, and he will not save an ear from a large stalk, it matters not how nice the corn is. By paying attention to this method a number of years he has corn which will not grow large stalks but good ears.—Salem Press.

HOLSTEIN CATTLE.

Holstein cattle are gradually replacing the Jerseys. They have been known for 500 years in Holstein. Immense quantities of butter and cheese are made there for the London market, and breeding was carried on there long before it was begun in Great Britain. The testimony of many eminent men is in favor of the Holstein breed. The cheese makers of Holland have cows giving twenty-eight wine quarts a day. The fattening quality of the Holsteins is remarkable. There is on a farm near Gwynedd, Pa., a cow five years of age, weighing 4600 pounds. There are four others, weighing 1140, 1175, 1145 and 950 respectively. As milk producers the Holsteins are unequalled. Echo has a record of 18,120 pounds of milk in 365 days, and Constance S. gave eighty pounds of milk in one day, a feat which has never been equalled. As butter-makers the Holsteins rank high. Mercedes won the challenge cup by scoring ninety-nine pounds and 9½ ounces in thirty days; Aggie 2d made twenty-seven pounds and seven ounces in seven days; Lady de Rees, 121 pounds and twelve ounces in thirty days, an average of over four pounds per day. The Holstein oxen are large, strong and docile, but I prefer the shorthorns.—American Cultivator

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURE.

The demand for a bureau of Agriculture in one of the departments of the general Government was long urged by public opinion before the first step had been taken toward its gratification. Commerce and manufactures had with great propriety, been cherished as objects entitled to its fostering care; but that upon which the prosperity of all other pursuits depends had found little or no direct support in legislation. In 1839, however, an appropriation of \$1,000 was made, at the suggestion of Mr. Ellsworth, the then commissioner of patents, for the purpose of collecting agricultural statistics, etc. In 1842, three years later, another thousand was appropriated; in 1843, \$2000 was appropriated; in 1844, a like sum; 1845, \$3000; in 1847, a like sum; in 1848, \$3500; in 1849, the same; in 1850, \$4500; in 1851, \$5500; and the same in 1852; and in 1853, \$5000. By this time the benefits of these appropriations began to be partially comprehended, and the conviction took strong hold upon the public mind that a branch of industry which had in 1850 been officially ascertained to yield products valued at nearly one and a third billions of dollars (\$1,326,691,326, the products of mining, manufacturers and the mechanic arts being considerably less,) was worthy the expenditure of a few thousands; and accordingly, we find that in each of the years 1854 and in 1855 an appropriation of \$25,000 was made together with \$10,000 to supply a deficiency in 1853. Since then the appropriations have gradually increased to half a million dollars a year.—Ben Purley Poore, in American Cultivator.

SOUTHERN PROGRESS.

The Baltimore *Manufacturer's Record* gives the following suggestive synopsis of the progress in Southern industries for the past nine months:

"Among the principal iron and steel enterprises now under way are five new furnaces of Basic steel works and 14,000 coke ovens by the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company, who already have five furnaces in operation. This company has a capital of \$10,000,000, and when the new furnaces are completed will have a daily capacity of about one thousand four hundred tons of pig iron; two furnaces now building at the De Bardelobar coal and iron company; one by Mr. Samuel Thomas and associates, of Pennsylvania; two under contract at Sheffield Ala.; two by Nashville and New York capitalists at South Pittsburg, Tenn.; one by the Coalburg coal and coke company, of Birmingham; one at Ashland, Ky.; one at Etna, Tenn.; one at Calera, Ala.; an \$800,000 iron company at Florence, Ala.; Bessemer steel works at Chattanooga, Tenn., and Richmond, Va.; two stove works, each with a capital of \$200,000, at Birmingham; two iron pipe works, one to be the largest in the United States, at Chattanooga, Tenn., and a similar enterprise at Wheeling, Ala. A \$600,000 company has been organized to build an iron manufacturing town at Bessemer, Ala.; a \$3,000,000 company, composed of Northern and Southern capitalists, has purchased a large part of South Pittsburg, where two furnaces are in operation and where three more are to be built and also iron pipe works and other manufacturing enterprises while two other iron centres are to be developed near Birmingham, one by the North Birmingham Land Company and the other by the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad company. During the last nine months there have been organized in the South forty-two ice factories, fifty-six foundries and Machine shops (many of them large) one Bessemer steel rail mill, sixteen miscellaneous iron works, including iron pipe works, bridge and bolt works, &c., five stove foundries, nineteen gas works, twenty-three electric light companies, eight agricultural implement factories, one hundred and fourteen mining and quarrying enterprises, twelve carriages and wagon factories, nine cotton mills, nineteen furniture factories, twelve water works, forty-four tobacco factories, seventy-one flour mills, three hundred and sixty-two lumber mills (not counting the small portable saw mills) including saw and planing mills, sash and door factories, stave, handle, shingle, hub and spoke and shuttle block factories, &c. In addition to which there was a number of miscellaneous enterprises.

During the first nine months of '86 the amount of capital, including capital stock of incorporated companies represented by new manufacturing and mining enterprises organized or chartered at the South and in the enlargement of old plants and in rebuilding of mills that were destroyed by fire, aggregated about \$48,834,200 against \$52,386,300 for corresponding period of '85.

QUITE PARADOXICAL.

The New York *World* pertinently remarks: "What a paradoxical parody upon republican government it is when citizens are so busy in making money that they will not take the trouble to protect themselves from being robbed, swindled and misgoverned by a set of pot-house politicians."

There is more complaint of the shortcomings of officials in New York than in any other city in this country, and yet the fact is that there are over 30,000 citizens, voters, business men and property owners, who never go to the polls to vote, but they complain when thieves get in office from which their votes might keep them.